

Chambers
WBC

Good Evening, Everybody:-

6

The sky outside is dim and cloudy, and has been all day. Drizzling from time to time. Further north, in upper New York State, there have been breaks in the clouds, sunlight pouring through here and there. In some places the sun was shining but the rain was still falling. So it looks as if the torrential downpour, which has been flooding for days, were about to end -- after causing the worst flood disaster that New York State has ever known. A belt one-hundred-and twenty-five miles long -- washed out, with the water standing inches deep or feet deep in towns and villages. A death list of ^{five,} ~~nearly~~ forty, two thousand people homeless, ~~ten~~ million ^{5 or} dollars ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ damage.

Today's story mostly concerns -- relief, in two senses of the word. Relief for the flood sufferers, with Government relief workers going to their aid. It is announced that twenty-five

thousand will be sent to the deluged area and put to work, repairing

(At the request of the President himself.)
the damage. The Red Cross is already on the job. ^a There is ~~the~~
and an epidemic.
danger of food shortage. Supplies are being rushed to the

sufferers. There are women and children, washed out of house and

home, who haven't had a bite to eat for twenty-four hours. ^{TP} And,

there's danger of fire in the ruined towns. In Walton, Delaware

County, six buildings burned. Fire companies from neighboring

towns had to plow their way through floods that engulfed the roads.

At Binghamton and at Hornell the firemen stood knee-deep in water

as they fought the flames. Some of them had to use boats as they

played the hose on the blaze.

There are flood stories by the score, tales of terror as the raging waters swept down. At Binghamton a couple of ~~xx~~ dozen men and women waited helplessly while the waters rose higher and higher, up to their necks. They were waiting for the raging torrent to sweep still higher and drown them. Then they were rescued.

At Bath, New York, George Bevan, a nineteen-year-old boy, saved one life after another, pulling people to high ground and safety as the torrent swept along. Then he himself was swept away. A log

banged him on the head and nearly knocked him out. But he was able to hang onto some floating boards for hours - then saved.

State Trooper Fred Waterman did his rescuing in a boat - until his boat turned over. His neavy uniform and boots pulled him down. His comrades gave him up for lost until he turned up, telling how he sank and was swept along in the water, finally hitting a barn that was being carried by the flood. He climbed onto the barn, and rescue boats saved him.

Meanwhile there are also flood stories coming in from New England, from Maryland, - yes- and from the Far East -- where that China flood is worse than ever.

FIRE

This evening a cloud of smoke is rising from a mud bank in Newark Bay, a ship still smoldering - after one of the wildest flaming rides, ever seen in any harbor. An oil tanker, on fire, blazing high, running amuck, nobody at the wheel. Neither skipper, nor pilot, nor crew. At full speed, this way and that, threatening to hit ships, threatening to hit docks - in a port where there are always plenty of oil ships and shores dotted with vast gasoline tanks.

There's a draw-bridge across a stretch of Newark Bay. And the tanker, J.A.MARTIN, was steering her course to pass through the draw. So was a tug boat. And bang! A collision! No great damage, save that as the two craft bounced apart, the tanker burst into flames. In a moment she was a flame-spouting volcano. The captain and crew of the tanker, showered with blazing gas - jumped overboard and swam to the piers of the bridge. So the tanker was left without pilot or crew, engines pumping away, screws turning the water, and on she went - right on through the drawbridge afire. That was quickly put out.

Then the floating volcano took a curving course. Other ships did some fancy steering to starboard or port to get out of the way, especially other oil tankers. The fire ship was headed for a point at shore where giant oil tanks stood with two million and a half gallons of gas. And that looked dangerous, with the possibilities of a blow-up and a blaze that would scorch the sky itself. But something caused the pilotless blaze-boat to swerve and take another course. She swung off in an arch, threatened another section of shore, swerved again and finally wound up by running into a mud bank, with her still laboring engines and screw, driving her deeper and deeper into the ooze.

Meanwhile, the alarm was echoed far and wide, and fire boats came speeding to the scene. They got ready to start squirting their hoses. One of the fire boats ran aground on the same mud bank where the tanker was blazing. The job of fire fighting was too tricky and hopeless, so they decided to let her burn. And burn she did all day, shooting flames like Vesuvius-on-a-mud-bank, and finally subsiding to a charred smoking hulk.

SECURITY

In the progress of the Social Security program, eyes have been so consistently fixed on Washington, that they've neglected to look at Sacramento, Albany, Richmond - meaning, the state capitals. Yet the national angle is only half of the social security scheme. The states will have to match the federal government with funds and ~~authorizations~~ ^{organizations} of their own. And there's been a nationwide push to have state governments take action in advance - set up their own social security laws in anticipation of the passage of the federal law by Congress. Let's see what's been happening! - Not so much!

TH In thirty-two of the forty-eight states, unemployment insurance bills have been introduced. They have been passed in only five states - California, Washington, Utah, New York and New Hampshire. The same figure of five applies to the old age pension idea. Only Kansas, Missouri, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont have passed old age pension laws - to become operative when the federal government enacts its own nationwide law.

In spite of plenty of urging, the states don't seem to be jumping in, getting set ~~with~~ ^{for} the social security program. Maybe they're waiting for Congress to do its stuff. Politicians are saying that the issue may cut a good deal of ice in the state elections next year.

BORAH

It's a little early for presidential booms. Before many months have passed we'll have so many of them that they'll be a weariness and a bore. But just now, while they're scarce, it may be entertaining to contemplate what looks like the first full-fledged boom in advance of the approaching season. Who's being boomed? Why, the big boom himself -- Borah pride of Idaho, he of the shaggy hair, crease in his chin, and the black slouch hat of the Western statesmen. A Republican, he has trod his own way and thought his own thoughts, for so long that they call him the "Third Political Party."

Today the Borah boom came out of the west, like Lochinvar, California fruit and rodeos. Of course, there's always a "Borah For President" agitation on in Idaho. But, the boom sound today comes from California. The "Borah For President" club of Los Angeles sends far and wide copies of a letter that it has addressed to the Senator. Urging him to run. He is hailed with mighty words as --, "the dynamo to set the flywheel of genuine Americanism into motion." This blast of eloquence must have left

the eloquent senator speechless, because the day has passed without him saying a word, either yes nor no, either "I choose" or "I don't choose."

Wait a minute -- I forgot to say for which party Senator Borah is being boomed. It's not the Democratic, nor that one man "Third Party." The word is -- Republican.

JAPAN

I don't know how the latest proclamation issued from Tokyo is worded in Japanese. But I suppose it's delicately ~~worded~~ worded -- as is fitting to the theme of the announcement. No doubt there is some discreet Far Eastern Walter Winchellism for a "blessed event".

This is
~~It is~~ to take place in the imperial family. The Son of Heaven is soon to have ^{another} son - or daughter. The official announcement was made today ^{in Tokyo}.

It's important news in the Far East; dynasty means so much in Japan. There was national misgiving because the family of the Emperor Hirohito and the Empress Nagako ran decidedly to girls. So the birth of Crown Prince Akihito four years ago brought national rejoicing. The lack of a male heir might have caused awkward complications on the royal succession in Japan.

SHANGHAI

Riotous scenes were witnessed in ~~Shanghai~~ Shanghai today. A throng of Chinese students yelled ^{and howled.} ~~in violent denunciation.~~ There was almost a pitched battle. And the name of the Japanese Emperor figured prominently in the proceedings. The occasion was a court trial - a Chinese editor accused of having printed an insulting remark about the Nipponese Son of Heaven. Not only did it all occur in the Chinese City of Shanghai, but the facts were that the Chinese editor was away on a trip when the article ~~offending the Japanese~~ was published. He knew nothing about it. Nevertheless, the Japanese Embassy demanded that he be punished. And they had their way. The editor was hauled to court, put on trial, found guilty, and today was sentenced to fourteen months in jail. ^R That's why the Chinese students staged an outbreak - denouncing the way the Japanese are making all sorts of demands on China and the way in which the Chinese officials are yielding. They kicked up a hullabaloo in the court room, flung showers of Communist propaganda leaflets, and were so menacing, that all the Japanese present scurried away to safety - including the representative of the Japanese Embassy. Later on, the Embassy made its retort - a threat that the Japanese would demand further ^{punishment,}

54

punishment for the scene in ~~the~~ court.

Meanwhile, the Nationalist government at Nanking has issued a nation wide warning, a warning to the Chinese not to circulate any statement that might offend the Japanese.

MALARIA

Elephants causing malaria - that's an odd idea. We'd always supposed that malaria was caused by a species of mosquito. That's true too. The elephants stalk into the picture in an odd way.

It all concerns that fantasmal scourge of malaria on the island of Ceylon that world traveller Rex Barton wrote us about a couple months ago, a terrifying plague which took thirty-five thousand lives. I find a discussion of the causes by Dr. Helen Lalinsky in the MEDICAL MISSIONARY, published by the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries. The basic cause of the Ceylon outbreak is given as a period of drought. A drought season breaks up shallow rivers into isolated pools. The deadly anopheles mosquito deposits its eggs mostly in small pools of that sort. And its favorite place has been found to be elephant tracks filled with water. The big beast puts its foot down in the marshy ground of a half dry sluggish, squiggly river. The great footprint fills with water, a breeding place for the malaria mosquito. With plenty of elephant tracking around, there were added reasons for the outbreak of the plague that devastated Ceylon.

ETHIOPIA

The reason why the Conciliation Commission meeting at Geneva ended in a row today hinges on a point of logic. A Belgian, representing the Abyssinian Government, was giving his version of the clash at Ualual, which started the dispute. He insisted on saying that Ualual was Abyssinian territory. It is shown that way on the map. But it's in dispute. The Italians claim it. That's one of the points at issue. The Italian delegates objected to the testimony. They pointed out that the purpose of the Conciliation Commission investigation was to determine ^{merely} what caused the fight. They demanded that the inquiry stick to the subject - because it was not supposed to take up any boundary questions ^{or} ~~and~~ discuss what bit of land belonged to whom. It all led to some angry talk, and the meeting broke up in an iron-bound deadlock. Just another failure in the attempts to preserve East African peace - but nobody expected much from the Conciliation Commission anyway.

England has promised the League of Nations to continue all efforts to stop a war. This assurance is given by the British

Foreign Office to Joseph Avenol, the Frenchman who is Secretary General of the League. *The Secretary says there will be a special League meeting to consider Italy-Abyssinia. Italy says if there is she'll quit the League.*

Inasmuch as war is very definitely in prospect, it is no surprise to find the Red Cross entering the picture - ready to serve the sick and the wounded on both sides. The Red Cross has been making inquiries. The King of Kings at Addis Ababa has not ^{yet} ~~yet fully~~ promised some things ~~which were the subject of~~ ^{that} the Red Cross ^{asked.} ~~ques-~~ ~~tions.~~ How about the wounded? How about prisoners? What will the Abyssinians do - observe the rules of war? The Conquering Lion of Judah doesn't give any absolute assurances ^{that} his barbaric ~~text~~ ^{torture,} tribesmen will refrain from mutilating prisoners and wounded. The dusky warriors have been known to do that sort of thing, and the Emperor Haille Selassie cannot be any too certain about it. His regular troops presumably would stay within the bounds of discipline. But how can he answer for the spearmen of the tribes, some of the most warlike and ferocious ^{bush fighters} ~~tribes~~ in the world?

It doesn't sound good to the Red Cross; it doesn't sound good to anybody. It merely adds to the belief we have already had - that if war does break out in East Africa, it will be a savage and relentless affair.

SELASSIE

While war clouds surround the King of Kings at Addis Ababa, legal difficulties surround the nephew of the King of Kings in the south of France. It's a love story, with the passionate suitor biting off the lady's nose. The passionate suitor in question, bears the same name as his uncle, the conquering Lion of Judah. He is called Araya Haille Selassie. At Chambéry, in the languorous land of ~~Languedoc~~ ^{Languedoc}, he has been sentenced to a year in jail, which sentence he is appealing. His defense is that it was the burning power of volcanic African love that caused him to bite off the lady's nose. Anyway, he merely snipped off the tip, and she has had it grafted back into place, so that her nose is as good as new.

It's an unhappy ending to the story of how the nephew of the Emperor of Abyssinia, sojourning in Europe, fell in love with Yamile, daughter of an Egyptian newspaper editor. He loved her, but she didn't love him. He proposed marriage, but she ~~did~~ wasn't marrying. He tried to persuade her to elope, but she wasn't eloping. He bombarded her with letters and telegrams, but she wasn't surrendering no matter how loud the bombardment of lovelorn T.N.T. Finally, he sent a friend to her, who told her how the melancholy lover was

desperately ill, calling for her, and that he would surely die unless she went to see him. So the lovely Yamile hurried to his supposed bedside, found him hale and hearty - merely eager to renew his sentimental expostulations. She kept on saying "No" until he made one last plea - that he might kiss her good-bye forever. She said - "If it was really good-bye and also forever, okay." But instead of kissing her he bit off her nose.

It must have been something like this: "I love your eyes, your hair, your lips - I love your nose." "Ouch!"

In consequence, while the spearmen of Ethiopia are ~~dancing~~ ^{skiping in} war dances, the nephew of the King of Kings is trying to ~~keep~~ ^{skip} out of jail. And I'm going to skip along to dinner--
and s-l-u-t-m.

9 1/2